

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed June 2, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to October 2, 2005. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 29, 1999, October 25, 2000, October 31, 2000, June 4, 2001, November 30, 2001, March 7, 2002, May 7, 2002, November 8, 2002, February 24, 2003, July 13, 2004, and March 9, 2005. A further Information Disclosure Statement was filed on June 1, 2005 (received by OIPE June 3, 2005). The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 1, 2005.

As shown in the attached *Substitute Specification*, the specification has been amended to correct minor typographical and grammatical informalities and in order to place the specification in conformance with the drawings.

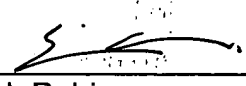
Claims 6-11 and 13-25 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 6-11 (page 4, Paper No. 20050520).

Paragraph 4 of the Official Action rejects claims 13-25 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,555 to Yamazaki et al. and JP 63-076474 to Takahata. Claims 13-25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; therefore, the rejection is now moot.

Accordingly, allowed claims 6-11 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 6 and 9-11 are independent. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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